AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method of processing image data, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a first image data and storing the first image data in a storage unit;

(b) obtaining a second image data by ~~means of~~ developing the first image data;

(c) obtaining a third image data by ~~means of~~ compressing the second image data and storing the third image data in the storage unit;

(d) comparing a volume of the first image data and a volume of the third image data; and

(e) ~~storing~~ discarding the image data of the larger of said volumes from the storage unit thereby retaining in the storage unit only the image data of the smaller of said two volumes ~~while discarding the image data of the larger of said two volumes~~.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, in which the first image data and the second image data consist of a printer language data and a bitmap data, respectively.

3. (Currently amended) A device for processing image data, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data consisting of a printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data consisting of a bitmap data by ~~means of~~ developing the first image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data by ~~means of~~ compressing the second image data;

a comparator for comparing a volume of the first image data and a volume of the third image data; [[and]]

a storage unit for storing the first image data and the second image data before the comparison by the comparator; and

a ~~storage means~~ controller for ~~storing the image data of the smaller of said two volumes while~~ discarding the image data of the larger of said two volumes, thereby retaining in the storage unit only the image data of the smaller of said two volumes.

4. (Original) A device according to claim 3, in which, in case of printing a plurality of copies, the second copy and the rest of the copies are printed based on the stored image data.

5. (Original) A device according to claim 3, in which said comparator executes said comparison of the volumes of said image data page by page and either the first image data or the third image data will be stored according to the result of said comparison.

6. (Original) A device according to claim 3, further comprising a transmitter for transmitting the stored image data to an external apparatus through a network.

7. (Original) A device according to claim 3, further comprising a detector for detecting problems during printing, and a transmitter for transmitting the stored image data when said detector detects a problem during printing through a network.

8-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A device for processing image data comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data including printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data including bitmap data by developing the first image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data by compressing the second image data;

a printing unit for printing on a recording medium using the second image data;

a first comparator for comparing a first time required for developing the first image data and a second time required for printing with the second image data;

a second comparator for comparing a volume of the first image data and a volume of the third image data; and

storage means for storing the first image data if said first comparator judges that the first time is shorter than the second time and if at the same time said second comparator judges that the volume of the first image data is smaller than the volume of the third image data.

15. (Previously Presented) A device for processing image data comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data including printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data including bitmap data by developing the first image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data by compressing the second image data;

a printing unit for printing on a recording medium using the second image data;

a comparator for comparing, if image data of two pages previous to a current page are stored as the second image data, a first time required for developing the first image data of the current page and a second time required for printing a recording medium using the second image data of the two previous pages; and

storage means for storing the first image data of the current page if said comparator judges that the first time is shorter than the second time.

16. (Previously Presented) A device for processing image data comprising:

a receiver for receiving a first image data including printer language data;

a first generator for generating a second image data including bitmap data by developing the first image data;

a second generator for generating a third image data by compressing the second image data;

a printing unit for printing on a recording medium using the second image data;

a first comparator for comparing, if image data of two pages previous to a current page are stored as the second image data, a first time required for developing the first image data of the current page and a second time required for printing a recording medium using the second image data of the two previous pages;

a second comparator for comparing a volume of the first image data of the current page and a volume of the third image data of the current page; and

storage means for storing the first image data of the current page if said first comparator judges that the first time is shorter than the second time and if at the same time said second

comparator judges that the volume of the first image data of the current page is smaller than the volume of the third image data of the current page.